

COLORADO

Colorado Department of Higher Education

- Coordinating board
- Data collected from 2-year public, 4-year public, and independent (private, non-profit) institutions in the state
- Financial aid entity
- The Colorado Department of Education has received 2 NCES Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grants (FY07, FY09 [ARRA]), totaling over \$21.6 million. The agency included its postsecondary and labor partners in the FY2009 Request for Application made possible through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.
- 1 of 2 state level postsecondary student unit record (SUR) systems
- Other postsecondary SURs in state (click on active link(s) to view profile):
Colorado Community College System (not included in study)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SUR NAME **Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS)**

Year SUR Established **1988**

Last period of upgrade/modification **Since 2000**

Start up funds received **no**

Recurring funds received **no**

Reasons SUR was Established

- legislative compliance
- institutional resource allocation/funding formula
- awarding financial aid
- IPEDS reporting
- increasing student achievement
- tracking student retention/graduation
- tracking students across institutions

Legal Authority to Collect Data

- state law creating coordinating or governing board
- state law creating data system
- state law requiring the collection of SUR data
- coordinating or governing board policy interpreting state law(s)

INSTITUTIONAL COVERAGE, TYPES OF DATA, AND METADATA

Institutional Coverage

- 2-year public
- 4-year public
- independent (private, non-profit)

IPEDS Roles

Verification

- coordinator
- keyholder

Reporting

- coordinator
- keyholder

Participation in IPEDS Surveys

- Completions (C)
- Fall Enrollment (EF)
- Graduation Rate (GRS)
- Student Financial Aid (SFA)

Types of Data Collected

- K-12 academic history (*high school, admissions test scores*)
- postsecondary academic history (*placement test scores, transfer*)
- demographic
- postsecondary enrollment
- finance (*tuition, fees, fiscal management*)
- financial aid
- completions
- non-credit instructional activity (*pre-college courses [remedial, developmental], continuing education courses*)
- academic program inventory
- institutional characteristics
- Adult Basic Education (*GED, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language*)

Authority to Change Data Elements/Definitions

- agency/entity staff
- group that includes appropriate institutional/campus personnel

Internal Primary Key(s) to Build Longitudinal Records

- Social Security Number (*no plans to discontinue use as internal primary key*)

Metadata

business procedures

- data element dictionary
- data submission/reporting procedure
- data certification forms

technical procedures

- data validation/data checking procedure
- data audit procedure
- statistical mechanisms used to alert institutional user of successful or unsuccessful data validation
- statistical mechanisms used to alert institutional user of successful or unsuccessful data audit

USES OF SUR DATA

Current Uses and Purposes

- decision-/policymaking
- generating reports and statistics (internal and external)
- consumer information for prospective students
- research
- cross-sector collaboration (K-12, labor, etc.)
- other purpose (*legislative requests*)

Types of Reports

- articulation
- completions
- distance education
- dual credit/dual enrollment
- enrollment
- financial aid (*independent institutions included*)
- high school feedback
- institutional finance (*independent institutions included*)
- institutional profile, public
- institutional profile, private
- non-credit instructional activity
- performance measures
- remediation
- retention
- transfer
- tuition/fees/college costs

Audiences Receiving Some or All Reports

governor's office, legislature, coordinating or governing board, K-12 (agency, districts, and/or schools), general public

LINKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH AGENCIES, STATES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

State P-20 Data Warehouse no

Links to State Agencies/Entities no

- state education agency (K-12) (*under development*)
- labor/workforce (*under development*)

Links to Other States no

Links to External Organizations no

Legal Mechanisms Enabling Linking not applicable

Barriers to Linking

- resources
- lack of common identifiers/crosswalks
- incompatible systems
- FERPA concerns

MECHANISMS TO ENSURE DATA QUALITY

Responsibility for Entering Data

- appropriate institutional/campus personnel

Responsibility for Checking/Verifying Data

- appropriate institutional/campus personnel

Method of Informing IR Personnel of Data Submission Inconsistencies

- automated notification (e.g., web-based, program-based method)

On-site Institutional Data Audits no

Professional Development for IR Professionals yes

Mandatory? no

Frequency annually and as needed

DATA ELEMENTS COLLECTED

Postsecondary Elements (36)

demographic

- student name
- ✓ - date of birth
- ✓ - gender
- ✓ - race/ethnicity
- ✓ - Social Security Number
- ✓ - K-12 identification number
- ✓ - Institutional identification number
- ✓ - student identification number
- ✓ - citizenship
- ✓ - state residency status

postsecondary academic history

- ✓ - admissions scores
- ✓ - placement scores
- ✓ - prior college(s) attended
- ✓ - transfer credits

enrollment status

- ✓ - degree seeking status
- ✓ - attendance status (full-/part-time)
- ✓ - 1st term of academic history
- ✓ - program/major

financial aid

- ✓ - dependency status
- ✓ - family income
- ✓ - federal financial aid
- ✓ - state financial aid
- ✓ - institutional financial aid
- ✓ - other financial aid
- ✓ - merit-based financial aid
- ✓ - need-based financial aid
- ✓ - FAFSA fields

academic activity

- course title
- course mode of instruction
- course grade
- ✓ - term student credit hours (SCH) attempted
- ✓ - term SCH earned

academic attainment

- ✓ - degree awarded
- ✓ - degree date
- ✓ - cumulative SCH earned
- ✓ - cumulative GPA

K-12 Elements (13)

demographic

- student free and reduced-price lunch eligibility
- language spoken at home
- disability status

high school background

- ✓ - high school attended
- district/school code
- student resident county-district code

academic activity

- date student enrolled
- course type
- course title
- course grade

academic attainment

- ✓ - high school GPA
- ✓ - high school graduation date
- assessment scores

Labor/Workforce Elements (15)

- employer ID number
- employer size (# of employees monthly)
- employer county
- wages earned
- wage type code
- hours worked
- employment quarter code
- employment year
- date student/employee applied for Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- date student first received UI check
- other agencies providing services to student while student is receiving UI
- U.S. Census North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code
- U.S. Census NAICS title
- U.S. Department of Labor Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code
- U.S. Department of Labor SOC title